



HISTORICAL MARKERS

*of interest to the Methodist Church
within the bounds of*

THE NORTH CAROLINA

and the

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCES



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INTRODUCTION

MOST of the people who make history are not aware of the fact. They are simply living a life, doing what seems good or necessary, with no particular concern about posterity. For that reason often the most interesting events have gone without a record, or have been but carelessly reported.

This brochure has been prepared in order to give immortality to some places and events which are of permanent significance to Methodism. As the reader turns these pages, perhaps there will come to his mind other sites and happenings which should be marked and preserved. It is hoped that individuals and churches will take steps in their own localities to erect markers and otherwise to preserve important records.

Within the bounds of the Western North Carolina Conference, markers might well be erected at the following places: the campuses of Weaver and Rutherford Colleges; the grave of Dr. R. L. Abernethy; the Catalooche Trail; and the Cokesbury School near Phelp's Ferry in Davie County. Other sites may impress the reader as being of equal significance.

JAMES C. STOKES

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HISTORICAL MARKERS
WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE



GREEN HILL'S HOUSE

"Here the first Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church convened on April 20, 1785. The territory represented by this Conference was Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. There were in attendance about twenty preachers, who had come up from large and difficult fields to make their reports. The year had been a successful one, the preachers reporting a gain of nine hundred and ninety-one members.

"The house where this Conference was held is still standing, and is in good repair. It is situated about one mile south of Louisburg, the county seat of Franklin. The large upper room where the Conference sat may be seen by any visitor to this old homestead. Green Hill entertained the Conference. Dr. Coke says: 'There were about twenty preachers or more in one house, and by making or laying beds on the floor there was room for all. We spent three days (from Wednesday to Friday, inclusive) in Conference, and a comfortable time we had together.' These men did not require a separate room or a separate bed."—(*History of Methodism in North Carolina*, by W. L. Grissom, Vol. I, pp. 11, 122.)





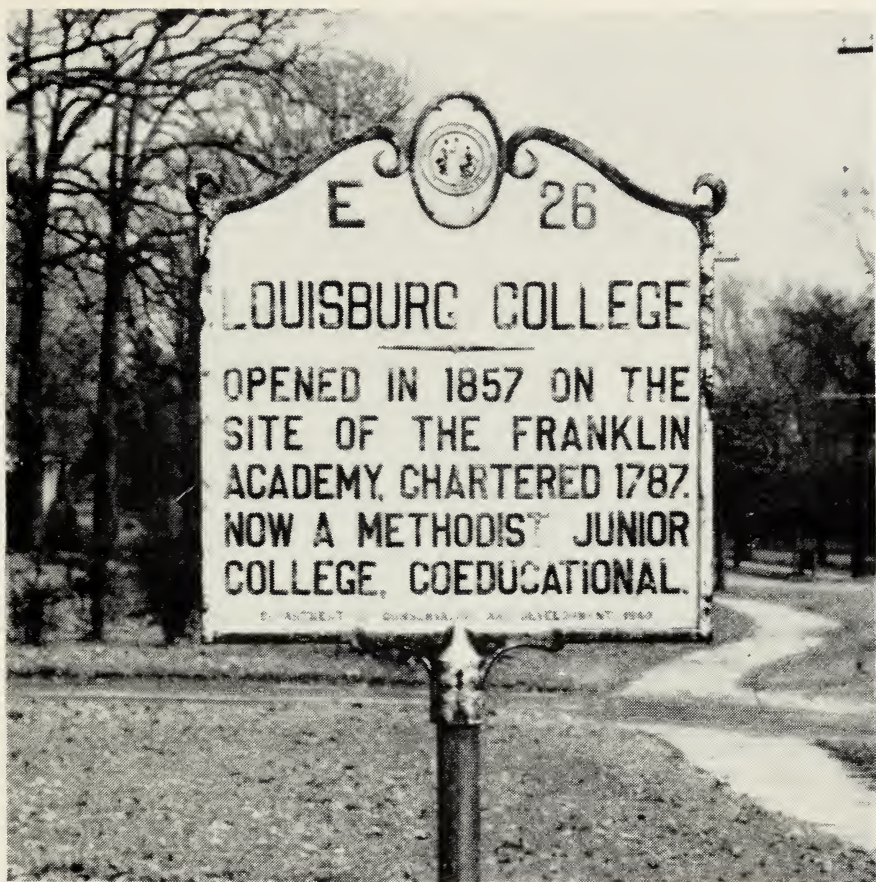
LITTLETON COLLEGE

In January 1882, Central Institute, an institution of learning for girls and young women, was founded, and its charter was granted in 1883. A new charter was granted in 1887 and the name changed to Littleton Female College. From the spring of 1889 until it was completely destroyed by fire on the night of January 22, 1919, it was owned and operated by a Methodist preacher, the Reverend J. M. Thodes, a member of the North Carolina Annual Conference. He served as its president for thirty consecutive years.



CAROLINA COLLEGE

Carolina College was a Methodist Junior College from 1911-1926. This was one of several Methodist colleges in North Carolina which have been discontinued during the last thirty years either by abandonment, sale or merger.



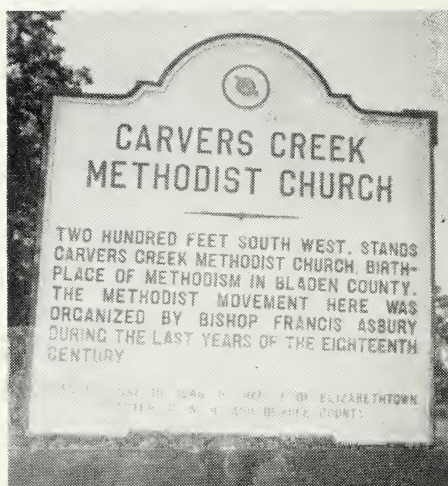
LOUISBURG COLLEGE

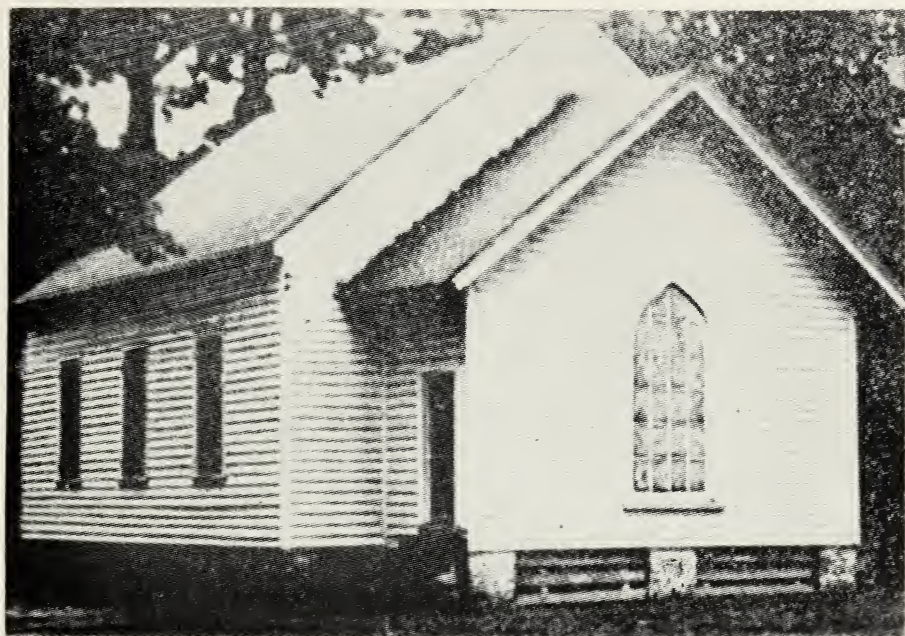
Louisburg College is a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It confers the degree of Associate Bachelor of Arts. Originally chartered as Franklin Academy in 1787, the main building was erected in 1857 and it was opened that year as Louisburg College. In 1907 Mr. Benjamin N. Duke donated the college to the North Carolina Annual Conference. Steeped in noble traditions, blessed by its gift over long years of thousands of useful lives among its loyal alumnae and alumni, and now freed of its indebtedness and in the midst of an expansion program, this good institution faces a future of solid growth and greater service.



CARVERS CREEK METHODIST CHURCH

About 1790 or 1791 Bishop Francis Asbury preached in the Carvers Creek section of Bladen County. Shortly thereafter a Methodist organization was perfected and the property of an old Quaker site was deeded to the Methodists. A small frame building was erected about 1810. This was used until the present building (here shown) was constructed in 1859. The historical marker was erected by the Battle of Elizabethtown Chapter of the D. A. R. and Bladen County.



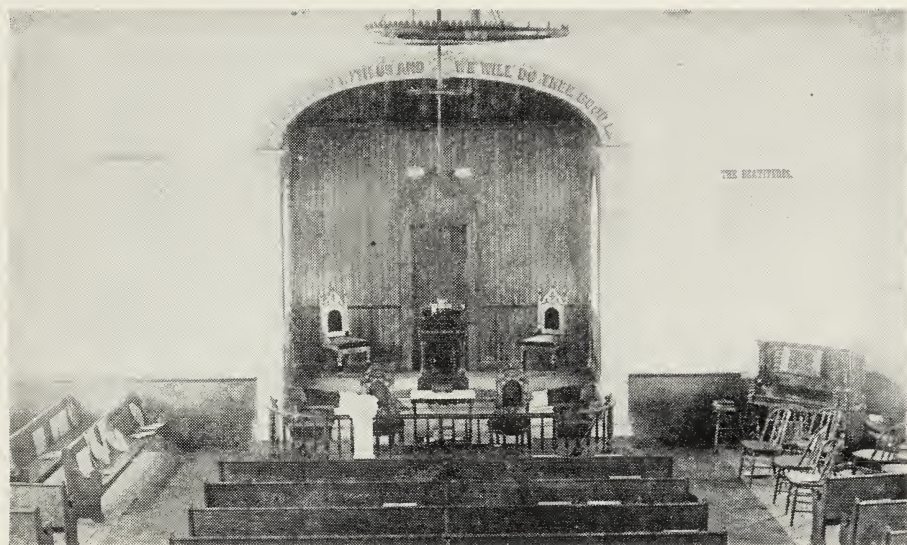


WHITAKER'S CHAPEL

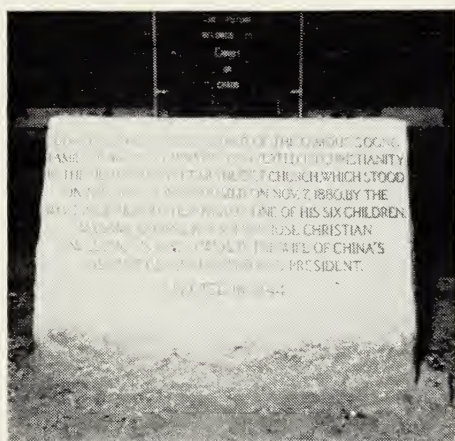
The North Carolina Annual Conference, the oldest conference in the Methodist Protestant Church, was organized in this church on Friday, December 19, 1828. Whitaker's Chapel has rendered service to the residents of Halifax County for almost two centuries, having been erected about 1740. The present structure is the third building to stand on the same site. The edifice is well kept, neat, and very attractive both as to its sylvan setting and interior finish. It constitutes one of the outstanding shrines of democratic Methodism of America. Those desiring to visit the historic place may do so by traveling seven miles of improved highway leading southeast from the town of Enfield.—Photograph and legend by Rev. J. Elwood Carroll.



With a fraternal hand clasp, symbolic of a deeper heart clasp, the East and West meet in Christian love on the spot where the Christ of Everywhere met a Chinese lad, Charlie Jones Soong, in transforming power, during a revival meeting held in old Fifth Street Methodist Church, Wilmington, N. C., in the fall of 1880. Dr. T. T. Lew, Christian minister, eminent statesman and brilliant scholar, was designated by the Chinese Embassy to represent the Republic of China to the Fifth Avenue Methodist Church on the occasion of the dedication of the Charlie Jones Soong Memorial Building on November 1, 1942. Mrs. Lew was designated by Her Excellency Madame Chiang Kai-shek to read the Madame's cablegram to the church on this occasion.



Interior view of the old Fifth Street Methodist Church, Wilmington, N. C. It was at this altar that Charlie Jones Soong was converted and baptized in 1880.

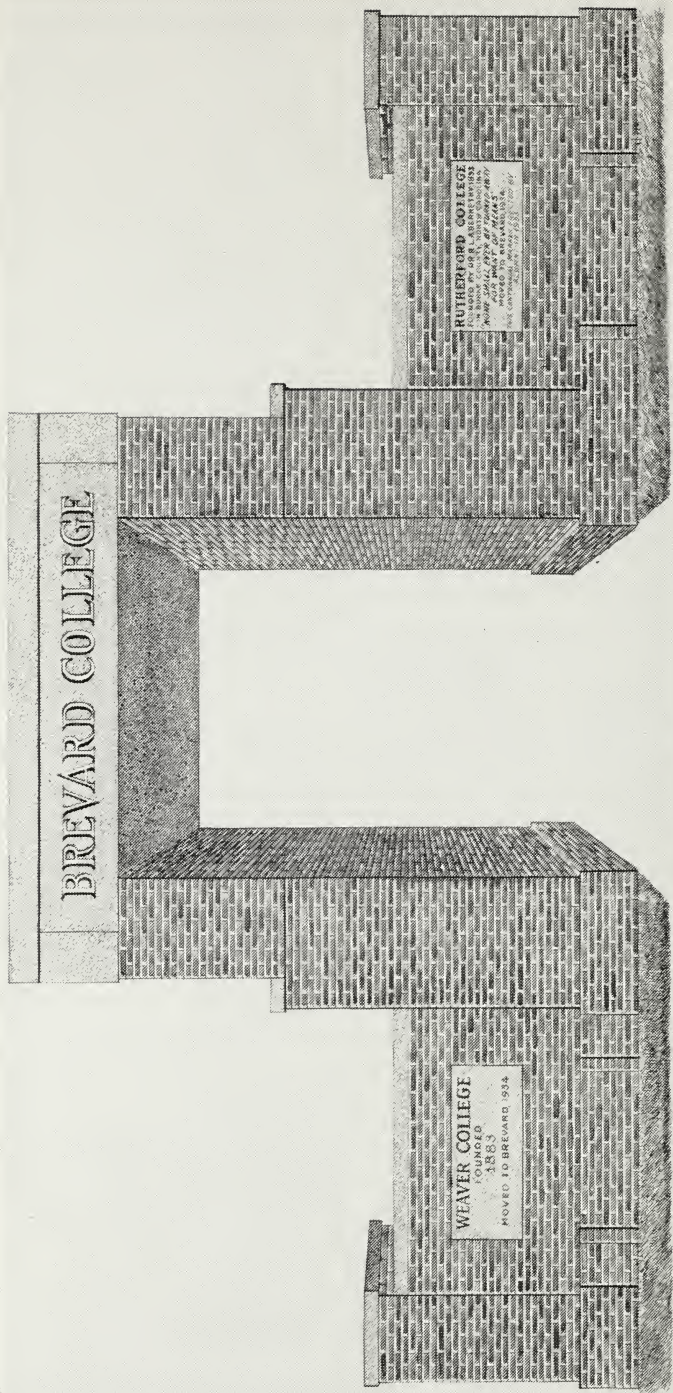


Doubtless, there are many other places of sufficient historical interest and significance to justify the designation of their locations and to indicate their contributions. The North Carolina Annual Conference Historical Society would appreciate any data on such places or events. The State Historical Society has marked a few of these outstanding places; and some have been marked by other organizations. It would be fitting for our Conference to erect additional markers.

George Whitefield passed through the colony of North Carolina several times and preached in some of the eastern towns. He was in New Bern in 1739-1740, and in Bath in the winter of 1748. His visits prepared the way for Methodism. Joseph Pilmoor was the first Methodist preacher sent out by Mr. Wesley to enter North Carolina, and to him goes the honor of having preached the first Methodist sermon in the colony, September 28, 1772, at Currituck Courthouse in Currituck County. At least four of our Bishops were born within the present bounds of the North Carolina Annual Conference: Robert Paine, Oscar P. Fitzgerald, William Walter Peele, and Costen J. Harrell. Grissom's *History of Methodism in North Carolina* says that Lovick Pierce was born within the bounds of the Roanoke Circuit, which was situated along the Roanoke River and which included perhaps Bertie, Northampton, Halifax, and Warren Counties. (Vol. 1, p. 66). Also, on June 18, 1780, after Mr. Asbury had preached at Brother Bustian's house on the Roanoke Circuit, John Dickins received subscriptions for the first project of a literary institution among American Methodists. (op. cit. pp. 66, 134-138).

C. D. BARCLIFT, *Secretary*
North Carolina Annual Conference
Historical Society (SEJ)

HISTORICAL MARKERS
WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE



BREVARD COLLEGE

WEAVER COLLEGE
BREVARD
1883
MOVED TO BREVARD 1934

RUTHERFORD COLLEGE
BREVARD
1883
MOVED TO BREVARD 1934

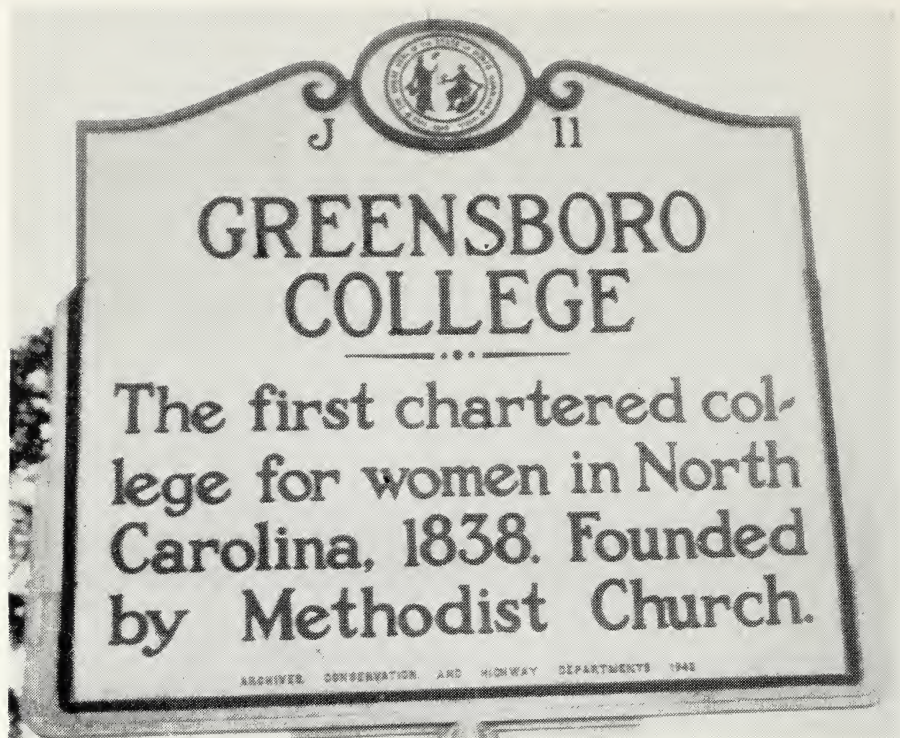
MEMORIAL GATE AT BREVARD COLLEGE

In 1933 Rutherford College closed its doors after more than three quarters of a century of rich service to The Methodist Church and to society. The same year Weaver College, another of our noble Methodist schools, did likewise. Brevard Institute, a preparatory school owned by the Woman's Division of Christian Service of The Methodist Church had ceased operation in 1932.

All three of these great and useful institutions were too virile to die, for in 1934 The Western North Carolina Conference formally launched Brevard College that became the single successor of all three of these previous institutions.

Loyal alumni of the three schools were not willing to let the names and traditions of the old schools pass away or be submerged in obscurity in the newer institution. The Rutherford College Alumni Association under the leadership of Rollin P. Gibbs, President, has taken the initiative in the planning and erection of this beautifully impressive memorial gate at the entrance of the Brevard College campus. As plans proceeded Weaver College alumni and Brevard College-Brevard Institute alumni were invited to join in this undertaking and thus make the gate a memorial marker for all three institutions. Leading the other alumni were Eston Stokes, Brevard College; Miss Hattie Aiken, Brevard Institute; and Zeb C. Williams, Weaver College. The cost was shared equally by the three participating groups.

The idea of a marker was first suggested by Ben L. Smith which resulted in the final suggestion by L. B. Hayes that a gate be erected. Plans were drawn by Louis Asbury and Son, architects. The stone work was done by H. B. Angel and construction was under the supervision of President Robert H. Stamey of Brevard College.

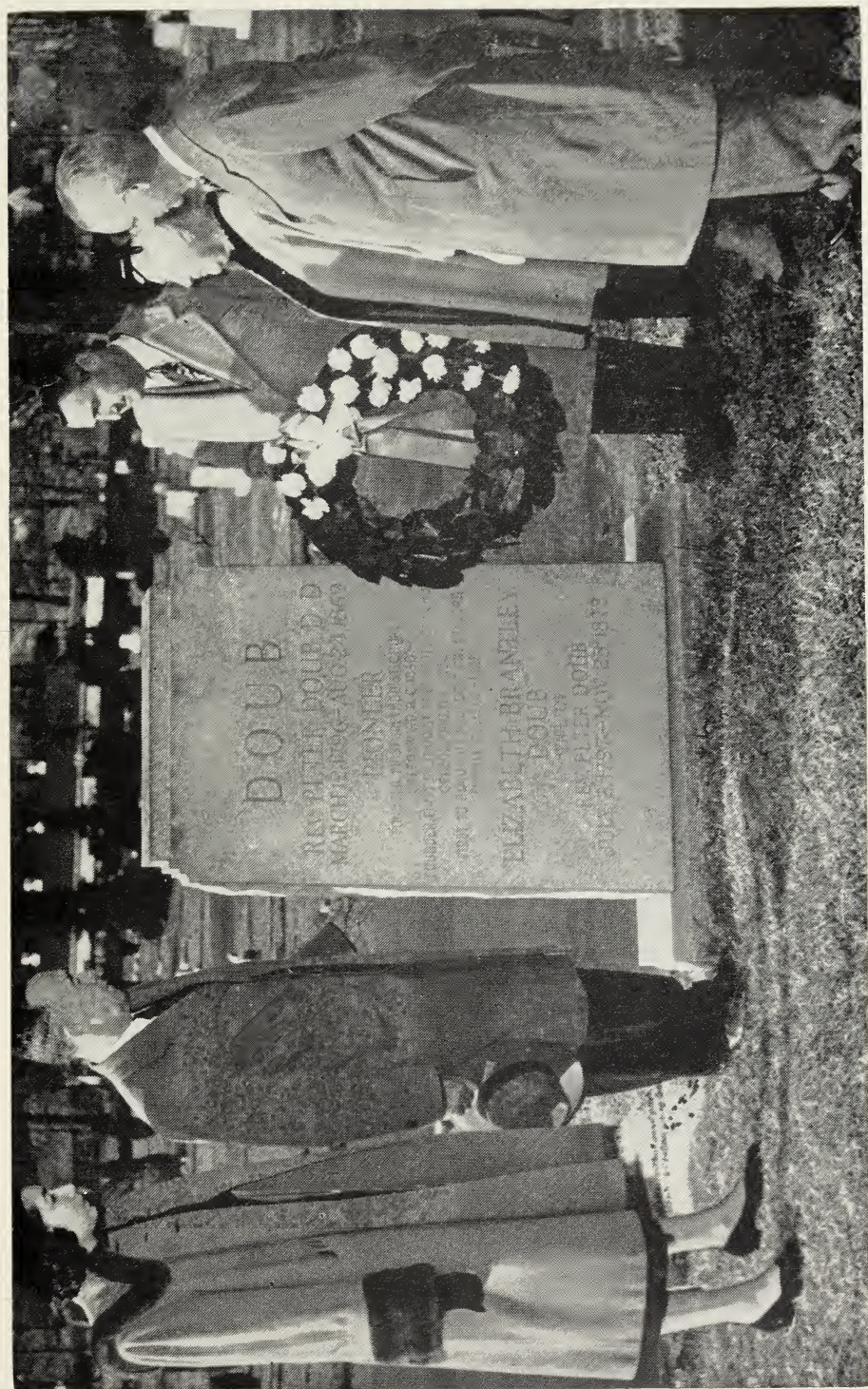


GREENSBORO COLLEGE

Greensboro College had its origin in 1833 as a school for girls established by the Reverend Peter Doub, pastor of the Methodist Church in Greensboro now known as West Market Street Church. It was chartered in 1838 as Greensboro Female College. Of all chartered colleges for women now in existence it is the first chartered by The Methodist Church. The cornerstone of the first building was laid in 1843, and in 1846 the institution opened its doors to students. In spite of fires, financial crises and competition from state institutions, the college has attained top rating by leading state and national accrediting agencies.

(*Opposite Page*) Monument erected to Rev. Peter Doub and wife in Green Hill Cemetery, Greensboro, N. C. Pastor of the first Methodist Church established in Greensboro and founder of Greensboro College, the minutes of the North Carolina Conference in 1869 tell that "Peter Doub's labors for his church were enormous—It is estimated that over 40,000 people were brought into the church directly or indirectly through his ministry . . . It is difficult to convey the veneration and tenderness with which Dr. Doub was regarded. He was a great man physically, mentally and spiritually."

From—"A Romance of Education", by Dr. S. B. Turrentine



DOUB

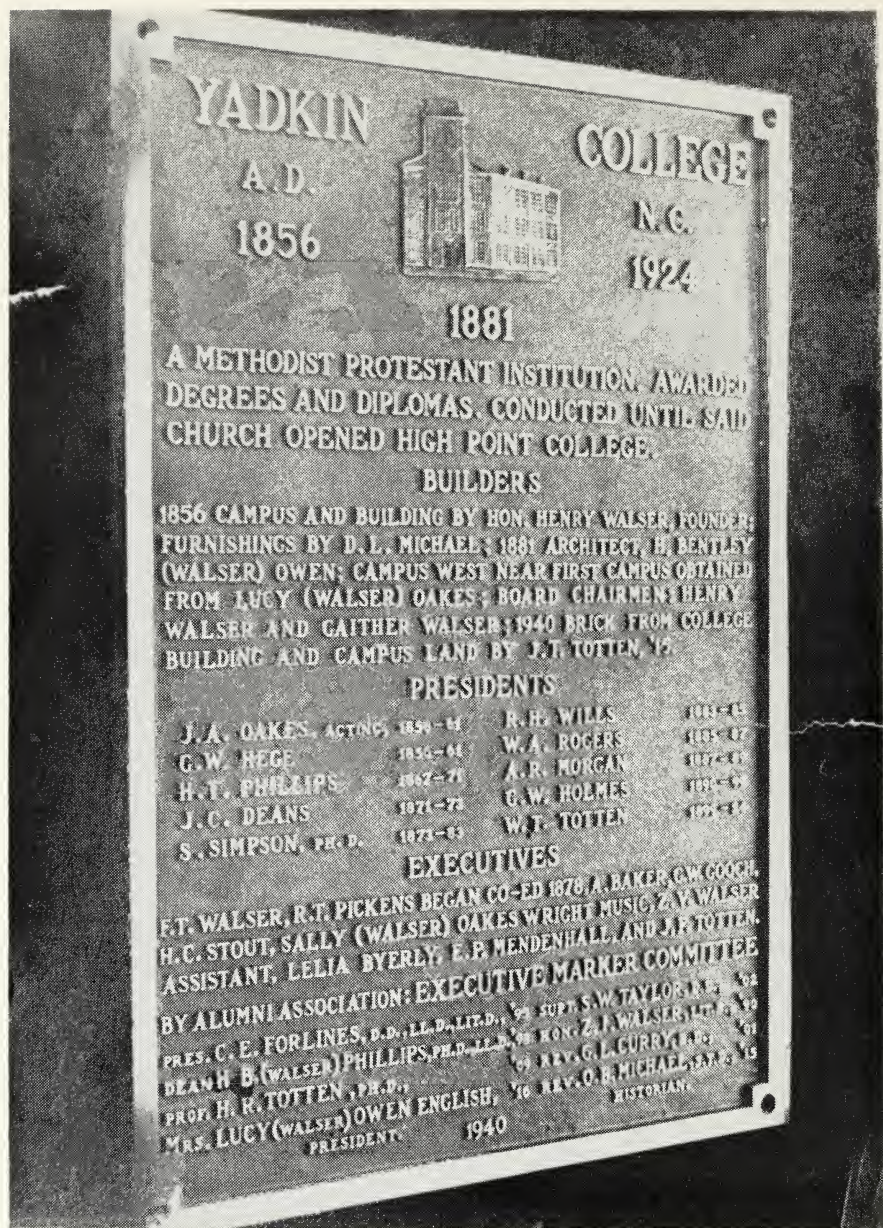
REV. ALLEN DOUB, D.D.
MARCH 2, 1806 - AUGUST 1, 1863

PIONEER

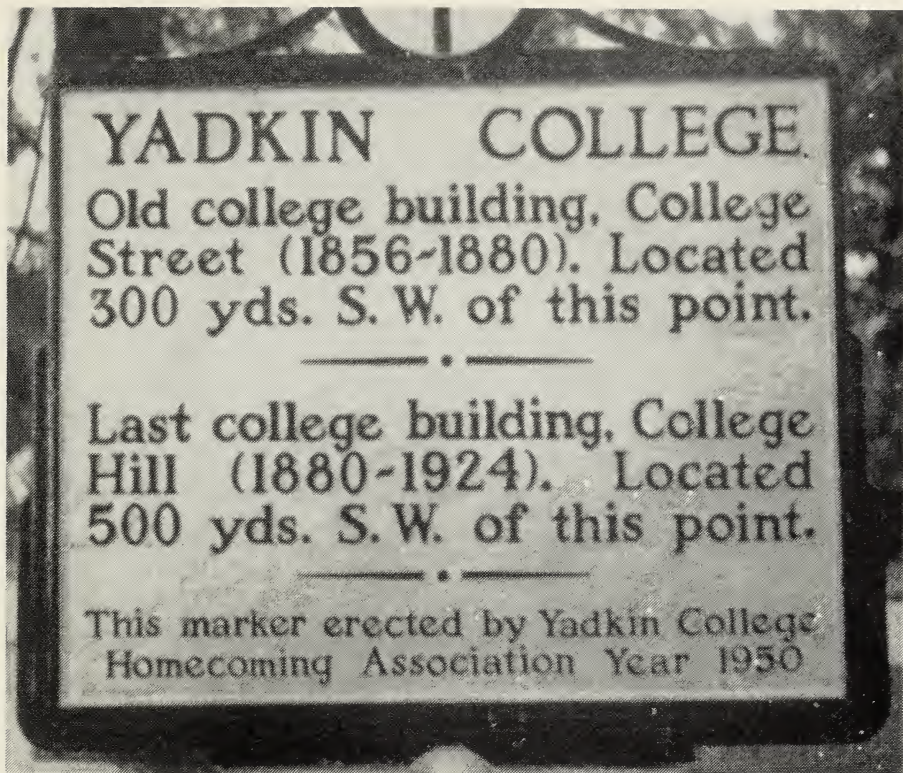
WIFE OF THE REV. ALLEN DOUB
DIED FEBRUARY 10, 1864
AGED 57 YEARS
WAS BORN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAY 10, 1806

ELIZABETH BRANDEEN
DOUB

WIFE OF
REV. ALLEN DOUB
DIED JANUARY 25, 1873



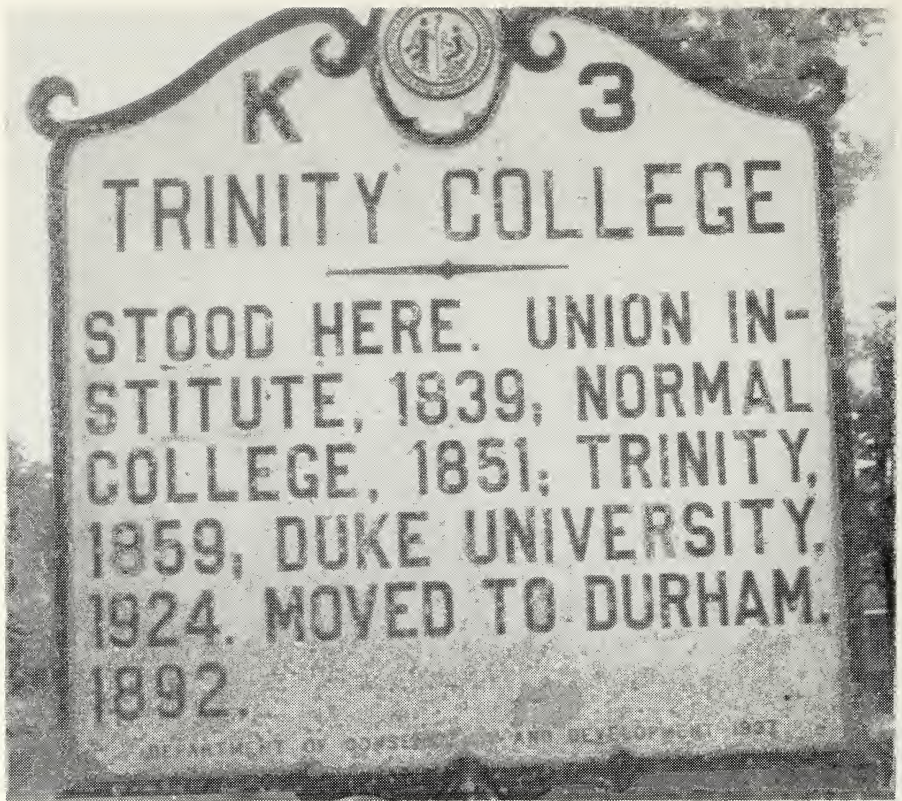
This Bronze Tablet Marker stands on the campus of Yadkin College, 1856-1924, Highway No. 64, between Lexington and Mocksville, and a duplicate Marker stands on the campus of High Point College, 1924—its successor.



YADKIN COLLEGE

Yadkin College was opened in 1856 near the Yadkin River, Lexington, N. C., by the Methodist Protestant Church. It was conducted until 1924 when said Church opened High Point College. It awarded degrees and diplomas and served the last century on the level with other noted colleges in producing ministers, teachers, and leaders. Professors John A. Oakes and George W. Hege were the first co-presidents.

The first trustees were: Rev. Alson W. Gray, D.D., Chairman, Rev. David Weasner, Secretary, Hon. David L. Michael, Hon. T. C. Crump, and Hon. Henry Walser, founder, elected by the 1852 Annual Conference at Fayetteville. (Vol. II, P. 21. M.P. Minutes.)



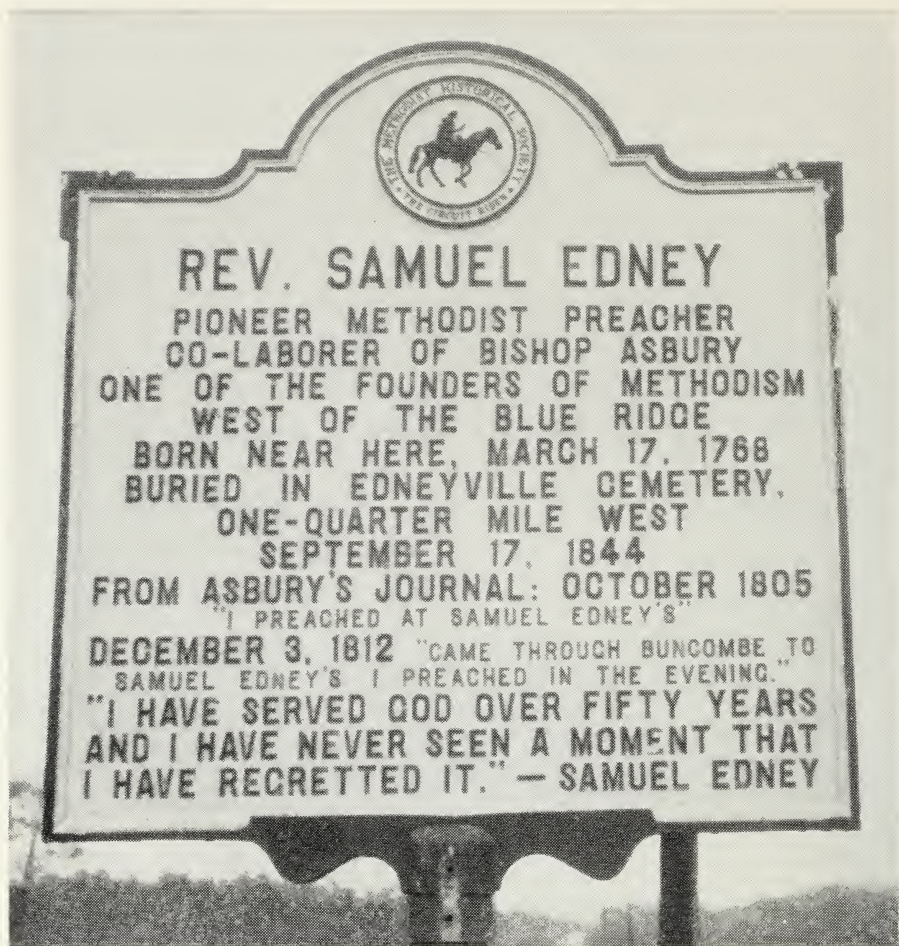
DUKE UNIVERSITY

In 1838 the citizens of a rural community in Randolph County established a school with the Reverend Brantley York as principal. In 1839 this school was enlarged and became Union Institute. In 1851 it became Normal College, and in 1859 Trinity College. The location was changed to Durham in 1892, and in 1924, through the provisions of the James B. Duke Indenture of Trust and the action of the board of trustees, the institution's name was changed to Duke University. From the Indenture of Mr. Duke are taken the following: "I have selected Duke University as one of the objects of this trust because I recognize that education . . . is, next to religion, the greatest civilizing influence."



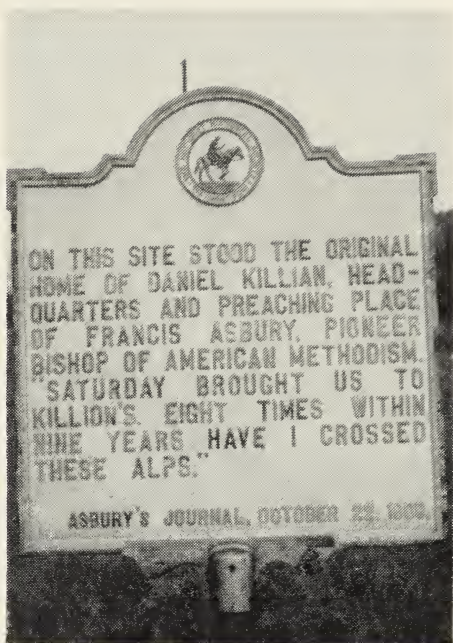
CAROLINA FEMALE COLLEGE

Carolina Female College at Ansonville was established by the South Carolina Conference in 1850. It was the second chartered school for girls in the United States. During its seventeen years of operation the college attracted many young women from eminent families all over the South. In the words of the 1854 Committee on Education of the Methodist Church, Carolina Female College exercised “a hallowed influence upon the minds and hearts of young ladies who have been favored with its instructions. In 1867 the College closed its doors, due to epidemics of measles and typhoid fever and the disrupted condition of the South following the War Between the States.

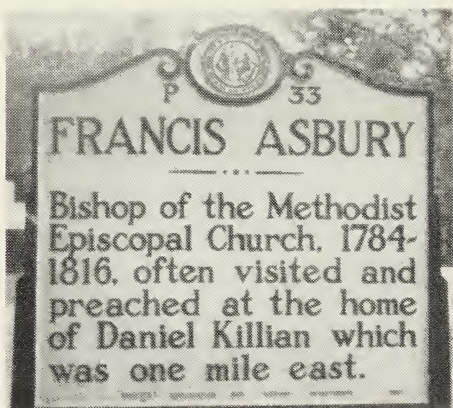


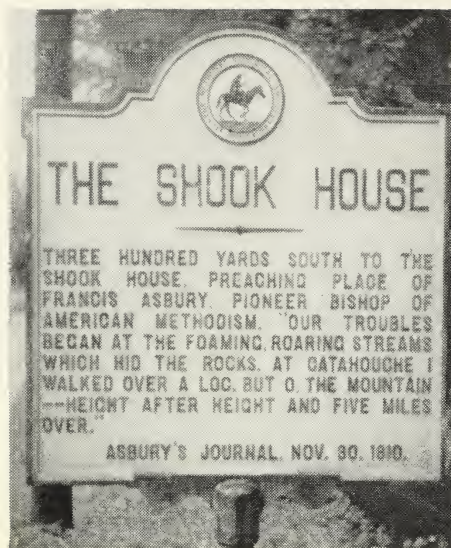
Rev. Samuel Edney, pioneer Methodist preacher and co-laborer of Bishop Asbury, was licensed to preach in 1791 and ordained by Bishop Asbury in 1813. In 1793 he was appointed to the Swannanoa Circuit which embraced all the territory in the western part of North Carolina and a part of Tennessee. After his location he settled at a point in Buncombe (now Henderson) County, which was afterward named for him Edneyville. According to Sondley he was the first Methodist preacher definitely appointed west of the Blue Ridge.

This marker is near the site of the original Daniel Killian home. Here Bishop Asbury made his headquarters, preached and presided over quarterly conferences. Here a class was organized which later became the Asbury Memorial Methodist Church, Asheville. In this church is to be found a chair said to have been made by Daniel Killian and used by Bishop Asbury.



The marker erected by the State has the title "Francis Asbury" and is located near a second house built by Daniel Killian and is often referred to as the Killian House. It is near the Asbury Methodist Church.





“Jacob Shook is credited with having built the first frame house in Haywood County. The building is still standing and is owned by D. I. L. Smathers. The house is one of the most interesting spots in the town of Clyde, and is a remarkable structure in many ways. The nails used in the building were made by hand by Jacob Shook himself. Bishop Asbury, the first of the rank to be consecrated in America, in some of his trips through Western North Carolina, held meetings in the chapel room that had been fitted up in the third story for divine services. The first church in Haywood County of the denomination was organized in that room, tradition says.” W. C. Allen in *“Annals of Haywood County.”*

